



First Presbyterian Church  
Portsmouth, Ohio

Rev. Ronald Johnson, Minister of Word and Sacrament  
Ms. Michele Imes, Liturgist  
Ms. Michele Imes, Director of Music  
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Guest Musician



# FIFTH SUNDAY in EASTER

## April 28, 2024

### GATHERING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

#### **WELCOME AND GREETING**

Pastor Ron Johnson

#### **PRELUDE**

Dr. Phillip Roberts

#### **\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Ms. Michele Imes

L. Like spring breaking through winter's power,

**P. God's resurrecting power breaks into our lives in surprising ways.**

L. Like the vine that supports blossoms and fruit,

**P. God's Word upholds the church in strength.**

L. Let us worship God, who makes all things new.

**All: We will praise God, who brings growth and renewal to all life.**

#### **\*PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Ms. Imes

**\*OPENING HYMN** #20 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

**GTG**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Ms. Imes

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(spoken in unison)*

Ms. Imes

***Gracious God, our hearts are restless until they find their home in you. Forgive our pursuit of things that separate us from you. We pursue success, realizing it will never be enough. We desire more possessions, knowing they are empty. We turn toward the world and hope we will find peace, knowing the world cannot provide it. Forgive us, we pray, and may our wandering hearts find their rest in you alone. Amen.***

*(Silence for personal confession and meditation)*

#### **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Johnson

***\*THE GLORIA PATRI (sung in unison)***

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

***A PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING***

Ms. Imes

***OLD TESTAMENT LESSON***

Exodus 19:1-6 NLT

Rev. Johnson

<sup>1</sup>Exactly three months after the people of Israel left Egypt, they came to the Desert of Sinai. <sup>2</sup>After they started out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai. They camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses went up to God. The LORD called out to him from the mountain. He said, "Here is what I want you to say to my people, who belong to Jacob's family. Tell the Israelites, <sup>4</sup>'You have seen for yourselves what I did to Egypt. You saw how I carried you on the wings of eagles and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup>Now obey me completely. Keep my covenant. If you do, then out of all the nations you will be my special treasure. The whole earth is mine. <sup>6</sup>But you will be a kingdom of priests to serve me. You will be my holy nation.' That is what you must tell the Israelites."

***NEW TESTAMENT LESSON***

John 15:1-8 NLT

Ms. Imes

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine. My Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch joined to me that does not bear fruit. He trims every branch that does bear fruit. Then it will bear even more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain joined to me, just as I also remain joined to you. No branch can bear fruit by itself. It must remain joined to the vine. In the same way, you can't bear fruit unless you remain joined to me.

<sup>5</sup>"I am the vine. You are the branches. If you remain joined to me, and I to you, you will bear a lot of fruit. You can't do anything without me.

<sup>6</sup> If you don't remain joined to me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and dries up. Branches like those are picked up. They are thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain joined to me and my words remain in you, ask for anything you wish. And it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> When you bear a lot of fruit, it brings glory to my Father. It shows that you are my disciples.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

***All: Thanks be to God!***

***SPECIAL MUSIC***

Dr. Roberts

***THE MESSAGE***

Live A Fruitful Life, Abide In the Vine

Rev. Johnson

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #43***

*"You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord"*

***GTG***

***PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE***

***The Lord's Prayer:***

***All: Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.***

**GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE LORD**

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING***

Ms. Imes

***OFFERTORY MUSIC***

Dr. Roberts

***\*The Doxology***

Praise God,  
from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*spoken in unison*) Ms. Imes  
**Generous God, we bless you for your gift of life renewed through Christ's love. Bless our gifts so they renew hope in the world you love, in the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen**

**\* CLOSING HYMN** #724 " O Jesus, I Have Promised" **GTG**

### **CALLED TO MISSION**

**Soli Deo Gloria** (*To God Alone be Glory*)  
**God's story shaping ours.**  
**In Christ, one and many, coming by grace,**  
**following in faith, serving with love,**  
**in neighborhoods near and far.**  
**The Word proclaimed, the work fulfilled,**  
**the World transformed toward Zion here and coming.**  
**To God alone be the glory!**

**\*BENEDICTION** Rev. Johnson

**\*SENDING SONG** #541 " God Be with You Till We Meet Again" **GTG**

**POSTLUDE** (*Please be seated for the postlude*) Dr. Roberts

**\*The asterisk indicates when we rise to our feet in spirit,  
as we are able in body.**



## **THE PRAYER LIST IS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE EDUCATION ANNEX**

### **Calendar**

May 1: Mission and Congregational Care (MCL), 4P.

May 5: Celebrate Communion

May 5: Installation of Officers

May 8: Board of Session meets hybrid, 5:30P.

May 12: Mother's Day Celebrated

May 12: Pastor at Vespers, Waverly, 7:30P

May 19: Pastor at 2PC, 9:30A.

May 20-28: Pastor away.

May 21: Scioto Valley Presbytery meets hybrid, 3:30P

May 27: Memorial Day observed, Office Closed.

Pastor & Church Secretary's Office Hours for the Week

Sunday: Worship and office hours. Mondays:

Home office (worship planning, prep, and meetings)

Tuesday thru Thursday: 10 A - 4 P Fridays: Off

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# SERMON NOTES

SERMON TITLE

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SCRIPTURE VERSE(S)

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WHAT DID I HEAR THAT RAISED QUESTIONS?

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HOW CAN I APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE?

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MY HEART-FELT PRAYER TO GOD FOR THOSE IN MY LIFE AND MYSELF

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